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toroid at the position of said radial gap.

#### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-23, 25-27, 29 and 38-40 are pending in the present application. Claims 20, 24, and 28 have been canceled. Claims 21-23, 25 and 27 have been amended and Claims 38-40 have been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 20-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 20-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP 5-62123 (JP '123); and Claims 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP '123 in view of Casagrande.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 20-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 20, 24 and 28 have been canceled and rewritten as new Claims 38, 39 and 40, respectively, and have been drafted in light of the comments noted in the outstanding Office Action and to be definite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 20-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP '123. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention currently includes independent Claims 38, 39 and 40 (which correspond to Claims 20, 24 and 28) and Claim 29. For example, independent Claim 38 is directed to a magnetic circuit including a magnetic layer having a median line and disposed with respect to an induced magnetic field so as to canalize, in the direction of the median line, the magnetic field. The magnetic layer is composed of a series of portions, in which two successive portions are separated from each other by a wall of insulating material disposed at

a position perpendicular to the median line of the magnetic layer and generating a demagnetizing field in the magnetic layer at the position of the wall. Independent Claims 29, 39 and 40 include similar features.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 4 illustrates a magnetic circuit including a magnetic layer 60 having a median line 62 and disposed with respect to an induced magnetic field so as to canalize, in the direction of the median line 62, the magnetic field. The magnetic layer 60 is composed of a series of portions, in which two successive portions are separated from each other by a wall of insulating material 64 disposed at a position perpendicular to the median line 62 of the magnetic layer 60 and generating a demagnetizing field in the magnetic layer 60 at the position of the wall 64.

The outstanding Office Action indicates JP '123 teaches the claimed invention and cites Figure 5. However, Applicants note JP '123 discloses a magnetic head with a writing-reading gap including the construction of a second gap (such as the gaps 2b and 3b shown in Figure 5). The second gap in JP '123 is disadvantageous for the magnetic head, because the second gap reduces the head performances. In particular, the second gap increases the reluctance of the head. For this reason, no other gaps are provided in JP '123.

Further, in JP '123, the magnetic circuits are fabricated using a mechanical assembly and not by using layers. This mechanical type of fabrication limits the possibility to realize more than two gaps. Further, the mechanical fabrication cannot be transposed to the technology of fabricating integrated magnetic circuits. On the contrary, the claimed invention recites a layer, whereas JP '123 uses the term "body" (see bodies 1a and 1b).

The technologies relative to integrated circuits on thin layers allow in particular to position very precisely the gaps in the magnetic circuit. This is not possible with the device in JP '123 realized by a mechanical fabrication method. Further, the insulating material in the

claimed invention is a magnetic insulating material, that is, a non-magnetic material. JP '123 does not teach or suggest the claimed features.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent Claims 38, 39 and 40 (which correspond to Claims 20, 24 and 28) and Claim 29, and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably define over JP '123.

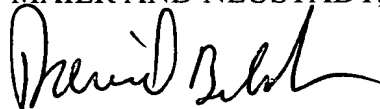
Claims 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP '123 in view of Kasagrande. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Similar arguments apply to independent Claim 29 as that discussed above with respect to Claims 38, 39 and 40. As noted above, JP '123 do not teach or suggest the features recited in the independent claims. Further, it is respectfully submitted Casagrande also do not teach or suggest these features. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection also be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

20. (Canceled).

21. (Amended) A magnetic circuit according to claim [20] 38, wherein said magnetic layer is a single-layer magnetic layer.

22. (Amended) A magnetic circuit according to claim [20] 38, wherein said magnetic layer is formed by a stack of alternating magnetic and insulating layers.

23. (Amended) A magnetic circuit according to claim [20] 38, wherein said walls are evenly-spaced.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Amended) A magnetic circuit according to claim [24] 39, wherein said magnetic layer is a single-layer magnetic layer.

27. (Amended) A magnetic circuit according to claim [24] 39, wherein said gaps are evenly-spaced.

28. (Canceled).

38-40. (New).